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FEBRUARY 3-5

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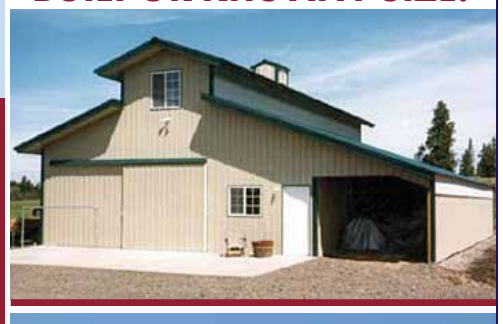

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Welcome to the 2026 Spokane Ag Show!

February 3-5 • Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-4pm, Thursday 9am-2pm

The 49th Annual Spokane Ag Show is returning to the Spokane Convention Center February 3 through 5. This is the perfect opportunity for local farmers and ranchers to explore agriculture equipment and products. Visit exhibitor booths and attend cutting edge seminars with a variety of relevant topics that can interest both the part-time rancher and full-time producer.

Cost to attend is $14 for adults, $10 for ages 12-18, and FREE for ages 11 & under and is good for all 3 days of the show.

Want to join in the fun but worried about parking downtown? Don't fret! As usual, we offer free parking and shuttle service for attendees and exhibitors at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena (720 W. Mallon Ave) to and from the show.

Questions? For more information check out www.AgShow.org. We Hope to see you there!

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Prep Time: 25 min | Total: 1 hr 5 min | Ingredients: 10 | Servings: 6

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 box (14.1 oz) refrigerated Pie Crusts (2 Count), softened as directed on box
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 3/4 cups from 1 carton chicken broth
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 1/2 cups shredded cooked chicken or turkey
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, thawed

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Bring crusts to room temperature by removing outer package and placing on your counter for 15 minutes. Heat oven to 425°F.
2. Place 1 pie crust in ungreased 9-inch glass pie plate. Press crust firmly against side and bottom, allowing any extra crust to hang over the edge.
3. In 2-quart saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion; cook 2 minutes, stirring frequently, until tender.
4. Stir in flour, salt, and pepper until well blended.
5. Gradually stir in broth and milk, cooking and stirring until bubbly and thickened.
6. Stir in chicken and mixed vegetables until combined. Remove from heat.
7. Spoon chicken mixture into crust-lined pie plate.
8. Place second crust over the chicken mixture. Fold excess top crust under the edge of the bottom crust, pressing edges together to seal and create a thick rim.
9. Flute the edge of the pie crust by placing your thumb and index finger about 1 inch apart on the outside edge. With your other thumb, push the pastry toward the outside to form a scalloped edge.
10. With a small knife, cut slits or shapes in several places in top crust to allow steam to escape while baking.
11. Bake 15 minutes. Then cover edge of crust with foil to prevent excessive browning.

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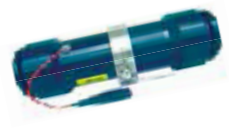

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2026 Seminar Schedule

Spokane Convention Center

February 3 - 5, 2026

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • NOON

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
Management of Cereal Stripe Rust Pesticide Recertification Course	Xianming Chen	Room 401 B	
Crop & Livestock Insurance Update	Gary Hellig Jr.	Room 401 C	
Energy, USDA Incentives, and how the New WA Green Bank can Support WA Agriculture	David Funk and Eli Lieberman	Room 402 A	
Legacy Planning for the Next Generation	Corey Brock, Norm Brock and Derek Brock	Room 402 B	
The Importance on Annual Farm Insurance Reviews	Shawn Koethke	Room 402 C	

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • 1:30 PM

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
Does Canola Belong on Your Farm? Pesticide Recertification Course	Jesse Warren Ford	Room 401 B	
Trump Tax Law Updates and How They Affect Your Farming Operation	Ryan Frederick and Jared King	Room 401 C	
Land Value Trends	Paul Vuletich and Whitney Husband	Room 402 A	
Entity Structure for Today and Future Generations	Corey Brock, Norm Brock and Derek Brock	Room 402 B	
Managing Grassy Weeds in Winter Wheat - Using Best Management Practices for Success	Brock Shelton	Room 402 C	

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • 3 PM

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
Roundup Product Changes for Homeowners and Land Managers Pesticide Recertification Course	Doug Finkelnburg	Room 401 B	
Weathering the Storm: Tax & Financial Stragegies in Agriculture's Lean Years	Larissa Zeiler	Room 401 C	
Crop Inputs Outlook	Damien Singh	Room 402 A	
Mastering Soil Residual Herbicides: Soil Chemistry, Timing, Placement of HPPD & PPO Inhibitors for PNW Cereals & Pulses Pesticide Recertification Course	Clark Neely	Room 402 B	
What We Get Wrong About the Snake River Dams	Adam Ratliff	Room 402 C	

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 10:30 AM

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
Wireworm and Seed Corn Maggot Identifications and control in Wheat and Pulses Respectfully Pesticide Recertification Course	Rick Wesselman	Room 401 B	
The Big Beautiful Bill: Key Tax Reforms Affecting Farmers	Carsen Davis and Cade Weber	Room 401 C	
Crop Insurance Made Easy	Cam Smith	Room 402 A	
Washington Wheat: Quality, Markets and What Comes Next	Jake Liening	Room 402 B	
The New Falling Numbers Test	Alison Thompson and Amber Havermale	Room 402 C	

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • NOON

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
Back to Basics Pesticide Recertification Course	Evan Hansen	Room 401 B	
Checks & Balances - The Art of Payroll & Bookkeeping	JoAnn Gossett and Lisa Martin	Room 401 C	
Preparing for Your Lendor	Ryan Kile	Room 402 A	
Estate Planning - All of It - Trusts, LLC's and Taxes	Corey Brock, Norm Brock and Derek Brock	Room 402 B	
Prescription to Payoff: Precision Agriculture from Variable Rate to Yield	Colby Davis	Room 402 C	

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 1:30 PM

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
Root Disease Research at USDA-ARS Pullman What's New From 2025 Pesticide Recertification Course	Tim Paulitz	Room 401 B	
The Importance of Annual Farm Insurance Reviews	Shawn Koethke	Room 401 C	
Cattle Market Outlooks	Amber Roberts and Bryce Henderson	Room 402 A	
Estate Planning 2 - Stories and Dealing with Family	Corey Brock, Norm Brock and Derek Brock	Room 402 B	
What We Get Wrong About the Snake River Dams	Adam Ratliff	Room 402 C	

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 3 PM			
Herbicide-Resistant Italian Rye: Lessons in Managing 4-Way Resistant Biotypes Pesticide Recertification Course	Morgan Menaker	Room 401 B	CREATIVE STRATEGIES
Optimize Your Social Security	Jonathan Springstead	Room 401 C	LOW
Energy Outlook and Conservation Update	Patrick Egan	Room 402 A	AgWest Farm Credit
Industrial Hemp Farming in Washington State and How Farmers can Profit	Jared Mayzak	Room 402 B	BROCK LAW FIRM
Commercial Vehicle Regulations for Farmers	Nicholas Mielke	Room 402 C	COLUMBIA BANK

Topic	Presenter	Meeting Room	Sponsor/ Exhibitor
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • 10:30 AM			
Management of Emerging Plant Diseases in the Pacific NW Pesticide Recertification Course	Kurt Schroeder	Room 401 B	CREATIVE STRATEGIES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • NOON			
The Good, The Bad, and The Buzzy: The Impacts of Pesticides On Pollinators and How to Protect Them Pesticide Recertification Course	Riley Reed	Room 401 B	CREATIVE STRATEGIES

Convention Center Ballrooms Keynote Sessions

Farm Forum Opening Session -

Tuesday, February 3 • 9am - 11am

Dr. Art Douglas 'The Weatherman'

Agriculture Economic Forecast -

"Freight Transportation, Tariff Impacts and Market Outlook"

Wednesday, February 4 • 9am - 10:30am

Eric Jessup

Washington FFA State Officers Program - "Career Cheat Codes for the Next Generation of Ag Leaders"

Thursday, February 5 • 9am - 11:00am

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For the most current seminar schedule, please visit our website www.AgShow.org

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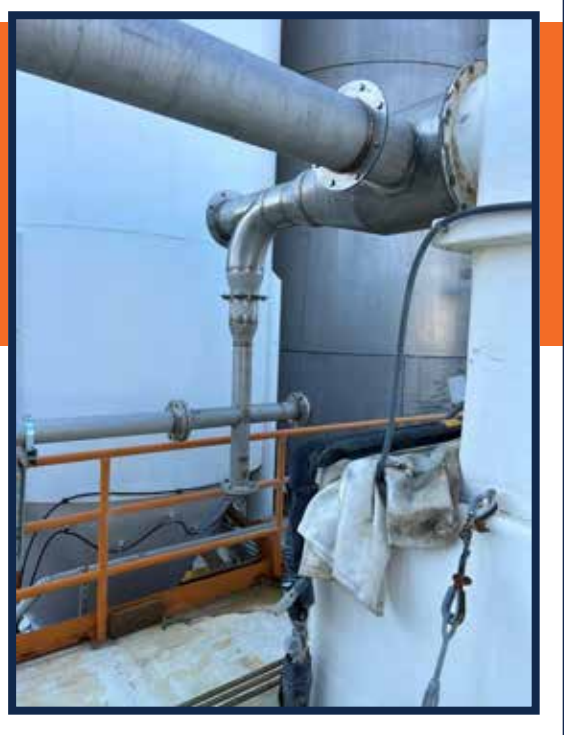

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Washington FFA Convention Returns to Pullman May 14-16, 2026

While you're calculating ROI on precision agriculture equipment, the next generation of Inland Northwest farmers is already training on it. The 96th Washington FFA Convention & Expo brings approximately 2,000 FFA members, agricultural educators, and guests to the WSU Pullman campus in May for three days of competition, career exploration, and leadership development.

WHAT THEY'RE COMPETING IN

Washington FFA offers more than 30 Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) at the state level. Several directly connect to the technology transforming modern agriculture:

- **Agriculture Innovations:** Focuses on emerging agricultural technologies and creative problem-solving.
- **Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems:** Teams of 3-4 students solve complex, multi-system agricultural problems. Students demonstrate technical knowledge across five areas: compact equipment, electricity, environment and natural resources, machinery and equipment, and structures. The competition emphasizes a "systems approach", understanding how solving one problem affects others.
- **Agronomy:** Students demonstrate knowledge in crop production, soil science, and plant identification, the foundation for understanding variable-rate application and precision nutrient management.
- **Farm & Agribusiness Management:** Members apply economic principles to agriculture, completing written exams and solving farm analysis problems, skills essential for calculating equipment ROI.
- **Environmental & Natural Resources:** Covers GPS applications, watershed management, and resource conservation technology.
- **Soils and Land Evaluation:** Hands-on assessment of soil properties and land use capabilities, the same data that drives precision agriculture decisions.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

What FFA students learn today reflects how rapidly agriculture has evolved. Modern agricultural education curriculum now includes:

Drone technology
Flight principles, FAA Part 107 regulations, mission planning, and agricultural applications

GPS and mapping
Understanding coordinate systems, field mapping, and precision application

Data interpretation
Turning sensor readings and imagery into actionable decisions

Equipment systems
How hydraulics, electronics, and mechanical systems integrate in modern machinery

Students can pursue Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) in precision agriculture, agrobotics, and remote sensing, earning recognition through Agricultural Proficiency Awards at local, state, and national levels.

THE PIPELINE

The technology featured at this year's Spokane Ag Show, such as GPS guidance systems, agricultural drones, soil sensors, etc., isn't just the future. It's what Washington FFA chapters are already teaching. These students will be the equipment operators, agronomists, and farm managers making precision agriculture decisions in the years ahead.

BEYOND THE BLUE JACKET

The convention isn't just competition. Students explore career pathways through the Ag Expo vendor show, connect with WSU faculty and students, and experience a residential college campus. For many, it's their first exposure to the breadth of careers available in modern agriculture—from equipment technology to data analytics to agribusiness management.

"FFA members will have a unique opportunity to experience a residential campus and, most importantly, the ability to see themselves in a collegiate atmosphere," noted WSU Provost Elizabeth Chilton when the convention returned to Pullman in 2024. Visit www.WashingtonFFA.org. •

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2026 SPOKANE AG SHOW

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5111 E. Trent Ave, Spokane, WA 99212

Publisher: Shelby Palmer
Sales: Jan Martin, Helen Boyd-Schwartz, Tami Meador
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The Math Behind Precision Ag: How Drones and GPS Technology Pay for Themselves

When input costs consume 40% or more of your operating budget, every percentage point of savings matters. This article will break down real numbers of what you're spending for your inputs, what new precision technology costs, and how 2026 tax incentives can cut your investment by 30% or more.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES NOW

According to University of Idaho AgBiz crop budgets, fertilizer accounts for 26% of wheat operating costs in the Inland Northwest. Montana State University and USDA data paint a similar picture across the region. These four categories represent the inputs most directly reduced by precision agriculture technology:

INPUT CATEGORY	COST PER ACRE (2025-2026)
Fertilizer	$160–$230
Herbicides/Pesticides	$50–$100
Seed	$115–$150
Fuel	$25–$50

University of Idaho agricultural economist Xiaoli Etienne notes that across most input categories in 2026, "prices will remain elevated at a very high level... the cost will cut into farmers' profit." For a 1,000-acre operation, these four inputs alone total $350,000 to $530,000 annually, and this is where precision technology will make its impact. *(www.uidaho.edu/cals/idaho-agbiz/crop-budgets)*

WHAT KIND OF REDUCTIONS WILL I SEE?

GPS Guidance & Autosteer:

Research from land-grant universities consistently documents the savings from GPS-guided systems as follows:

- 15–30% reduction in fertilizer through precise placement
- 10–20% reduction in herbicide/pesticide use
- 8–15% reduction in fuel consumption
- 5–10% reduction in seed waste from overlap elimination

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Montana State University research confirms precision agriculture technologies increase profitability by 25–30% when properly implemented. (*https://agresearch.montana.edu/mredi/index.html)*

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME IN TERMS OF DOLLARS

The Numbers on a 1,000-Acre Operation:

Estimating these reductions using numbers for a 1000 acre operation, you could expect an annual savings in the ballpark listed in the table.

INPUT	BASELINE COST	REDUCTION	ANNUAL SAVINGS
Fertilizer	$200,000	20%	$40,000
Herbicides	$75,000	20%	$15,000
Seed	$130,000	10%	$13,000
Fuel	$30,000	10%	$3,000
Total			**$71,000/year**

Agricultural Spray Drones

Drone technology delivers savings through precision application, but results vary by use case and should be evaluated carefully for your operation.

Documented savings from university and industry research:

- 20–30% chemical reduction through precision application (Food and Agriculture Organization, University of Missouri Extension)
- 75–90% labor reduction compared to traditional ground methods
- Elimination of soil compaction from heavy equipment
- Access to wet fields when ground sprayers can't operate

For specialized applications like spot-spraying weeds in fallow ground, savings can be significantly higher. Montana State University's Northern Agricultural Research Center tested camera-based spot spraying in 2025 and documented 71–92% herbicide reduction—but that's targeting individual weeds on bare ground, not broadcast application over standing crops.

Other research found drones were most effective for fungicide application on corn, but ground rigs actually outperformed drones on soybeans for ROI. Results vary by crop, application type, and field conditions.

Realistic savings estimate for a 1,000-acre operation:

Using a conservative 25% chemical reduction on three spray applications annually:

- Baseline chemical cost: $75,000
- 25% savings: $18,750/year

Commercial spray service operators report faster payback periods than farm owners due to higher annual acreage. For farm-owned equipment, expect payback within 1–3 seasons depending on acreage and application frequency.

WHAT'S THIS GOING TO COST ME UP FRONT?

There are many different systems available, and the lower level systems might have all of the features that you need. I've given a range of what the different systems cost to help us evaluate our real world numbers.

GPS/Autosteer Systems:

- Entry-level guidance: $800–$2,000
- Mid-range autosteer: $2,500–$6,000
- RTK precision systems: $6,000–$15,000
- Agricultural Spray Drones:
- Entry packages (4–10 gallon): $15,000–$22,000
- Mid-range packages (10–15 gallon): $22,000–$35,000
- Heavy-lift commercial: $35,000–$50,000+
- Scout/Mapping Drones:
- Multispectral systems: $5,000–$15,000

WHAT IS THE PAYBACK PERIOD?

GPS/Autosteer: Most operations achieve payback within 1–3 seasons. A $6,000 autosteer system paying back $58,000 annually in input savings covers its cost in weeks, not years.

Spray Drones: Montana State University developed a Smart Spray ROI Calculator *(https://agresearch.montana.edu/narc/Programs_and_projects/narc-precisionag/smart-spray.html)* showing payback periods of one to two years depending on acreage and weed pressure. Commercial operators report ROI in 3–4 weeks of heavy use.

Editors Note: The numbers look great when we put them into a calculator, and while these numbers are conservative and defensible, there are always other variables that we cannot include. But when using these as ballpark numbers, we can still estimate a reasonable payback period, and show that there will definitely be a return on investment.

ARE THERE ANY TAX INCENTIVES FOR PRECISION AG TECHNOLOGY?

According to Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code the deductions and bonus depreciation apply to precision agriculture technology—not just tractors.

What Qualifies:

- Drones, GPS systems, sensors, software
- Batteries, controllers, variable-rate equipment
- Must be purchased AND placed in service by December 31, 2026

2026 Limits:

- Section 179 deduction: $2,560,000
- 100% bonus depreciation: Reinstated under 2025 tax legislation

Tax Savings by Bracket:

Equipment Cost	22% Bracket	32% Bracket	35% Bracket
$6,000 autosteer	$1,320	$1,920	$2,100
$25,000 drone	$5,500	$8,000	$8,750
$42,500 full package	$9,350	$13,600	$14,875

Real World Numbers

Calculating these numbers based upon a 32% tax bracket:

- Autosteer system: $6,000
- Spray drone package: $28,000
- Scout drone: $5,000
- Variable-rate controller: $3,500

Total: $42,500 Tax savings: $13,600 Net cost: $28,90

Annual Savings:

- Fertilizer (20% reduction): $40,000
- Chemicals (25% reduction): $18,750
- Seed (10% reduction): $13,000
- Fuel (10% reduction): $3,000

Total: $74,750/year

Result: In this example the equipment would pay for itself in under five months. Every year after would be a margin improvement.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The combination of permanent 100% write-offs, proven input savings, and dealer inventory ready to move makes 2026 a strong year to invest in precision technology.

THREE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU BUY:

1. What are your current per-acre costs for fertilizer, chemicals, and fuel?
2. How many acres can you realistically cover with precision applications?
3. What's your tax bracket, and how much can you offset this year?

Run your numbers. Talk to your tax advisor. Then talk to the equipment dealers at the show. •

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Tues, Feb. 3, 7:30am to 4:30pm
Wed, Feb. 4, 7:30am to 4:30pm
Thurs, Feb. 5, 7:30am to 2:30pm

Spokane Ag Show

SCHOLORSHIPS

The Spokane Ag Show is committed to the protection and promotion of jobs and investments in agriculture and related industries. As part of this mission, we provide various platforms for the next generation of ag professions to grow through exposure to industry pathways. One of our platforms is our scholarship program.

The program is for active Inland Northwest agricultural farm youth. Area high school seniors who plan to study agriculture (including trade education) and can still be claimed as legal dependents are eligible. Scholarships will be awarded to students attending accredited schools in any state. Scholarships are paid directly to the educational institution. Recipients will formally be awarded at the Ag Show FFA program on February 5.

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(2) $4,000 individual scholarships
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